

Queen ELIZABETH's Ghost :

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MY Mind having one Day been very taken up with the Glorious Opening our Campaign in the Spanish Netherlands, the Duke of Marlborough's great Victory at *Ramelles*, and the mighty Successes which thereupon immediately attended it; our Happy Prospect in *Spain*, by the Battling the French Army before *Barcelona*, and the whole Chain of Wonders, which our Great Queen has presented the World with, since Her coming to the Crown: My Thoughts in the Night-time were correspond to those of the Day, only with the addition of so weakish Imagery, as is usual in Dreams.

I fancied Queen Elizabeth (to whose Memory I always bore a Profound Respect) Appeared to me, and Talked with me very freely about our present Affairs. She had an Awfulness however in her Countenance, but that seemed to go off whenever our Queen was named. She told me, She was mightily pleased, that Her Motto, *Semper Eadem*, was taken up in this Reign, and that Queen Anne was Her Daughter of Fame. I presently then took occasion to mention a Verse of one of our best Poets, which ends thus, --- *Great Edward's Greater Son*: She smiled, but said, I was guilty of some Rudeness.

She told me, She wonder'd Women were no more Esteemed for their Understanding, since they certainly were more capable of Governing Kingdoms (which is the Noblest of all the Offices of the Understanding) than Men are. I answer'd, I did not think Women more capable of it: For though I was very ready to allow, that of Three Female Reigns, Two of them were incomparably the most Shining part of our History; yet I did not see how from Two Instances, a General Rule might be formed. But here Queen Elizabeth was pleased to Correct my Dulness with great Justice.

How! says She, with a Contemptuous Air, Do not you think One Lord *Bacon*, or One such Man as the present Lord Keeper, is not sufficient to Distinguish Englishmen from *Muscovites*? Is not the Glaring Merit of Two such Female Reigns sufficient to Establish our Sex's Superiority in Government? Nature does not *Ad per saltum* as you ignorantly imagine.

I humbly reply'd, I thought the Reason of Women being Better Monarchs than Men, was, That the Female Sex was freer from Vice than ours: That Wisdom consisted (three parts of four) in Temper; which not being hurried so much with the violence of Passions, by reason of the coldness of their Sex, was better Regulated in Women: That more Women had Spirit and Resolution enough for Government of Nations, than Men had Virtue for it.

Then we Talked of the War; of the Battels of *Schellenberg*, *Bleinheim*, and all the Glories of the Duke of Marlborough's German Expedit in 1704. of his wonderful Conduct in all this War; his great Victory at *Ramelles*, gain'd at the beginning of this Campaign, 1706. and such a numerous Train of Conquests within a very few Days after it; of the War in *Spain*, of the two Sieges of *Barcelona*, and Affairs in that part of *Spain*; all so much to the Honour of my Lord *Peterborough*.

She said, the Battels in Her Reign were but little Essays of War, in comparison of what we now are used to; and the Actions of Her Reign, compared with those of Queen Anne's, make but a Poor Figure. To that, I return'd an Example of a Great Man of former Ages, which came to be less than the Greatest, did not the like; — and that Queen Elizabeth's Memory would be always Glori-

gous among Englishmen: That in Good Reigns Her Majesty's Memory had a more universal Respect, tho' perhaps not altogether so warm as in Bad; for then Scoundrel Writers, and others in Conversation, were apt to make their Court by Tracing Queen Elizabeth.

After this, we Talked of such who had the most Favour at Court. She (I remember) said, The Nation ought to Thank Queen Anne even for Her Favourites. She told me, Princes generally thought they could create Merit, as well as Titles; though, She confessed, our Queen was not of that Opinion. We have no Establishment of Favourites, but Great Places are conferred upon Greater Merit.

She was mightily pleased with the Secrecy of this Reign; and told me, Our Designs upon our Enemies, in most others, were usually managed with almost the same Openness that Friendship it self ought to be; and that the Duke of Marlborough's March into Germany in 1704, was as noble an Instance of Secrecy, as is in History. Oh! said She, The Spirit of Queen Elizabeth Informs this Court. But this was the most assuming Thing that passed in the whole Conversation.

Then She went off to talk of our Queen's Extraordinary Generosity in giving so much to the Publick: Of the exquisite Management of the Treasury; And upon that, let Her Self into great Comendations of my Lord *Godolphin*, as High Treasurer and Minister of State. The whole Oeconomy of our Affairs, I found, Pleased Her extreamly.

She chang'd then her Discourse, to talk of Her Church of *England* (and really without Vanity She might well call it Her's.) She was very sensible of our Queen's true Christian Piety, and well-govern'd Zeal for the Established Church. She was sorry any Protestants should Dissent from such an excellent Church. She thought indeed it might be reasonable in Her Time, to prevent the beginning of any Separation by some Severity; but that all severe Methods now were Unchristian and Impolitic.

I said, that for my part I was utterly against all Punishment upon the bare account of Conscience; and I was so much against it, as to be against persecuting even them who profess Persecution, The Papists themselves.

Upon that She talk'd of some great Clergymen; and remember, speaking of *Archbishop Laud*; She said, He had the most Logick of any Madman She ever heard.

I remember likewise She told me, It would be well for the Liberties of *England*, if there never were any Protestant Dissenters; but it would be very ill for the Liberties of *England*, if their Numbers were to be much less'd, (and to take them away quite is impossible), for if there were no such Dissenters, the High-Church-Party would not, as now they do, in pure Contradiction to them, run into Notions of Arbitrary Power; and we should not be troubled with the *Cant* of, — What will become of the Church? — But so long as any number of Protestant Dissenters were on foot, the High-Church-Party would still pretend to the same Fears, and the Spirit of Contradiction would engage them to the same Notions of Arbitrary Power.

After all this Conversation, Queen Elizabeth concluded about the Union with *Scotland*, which She was Zealous for, and said several Things upon it, which I do not well Remember: I soon after awaked, and found I had been all this time in a Dream. Yet *England's* Happiness under Queen Anne's Government is no Dream, but Substance and Reality.

6th, 1706.